OPTICAL PROCESSING

Objective

Develop automated vision systems specifically tailored to the applications of PM USA for the improvement of product quality and manufacturing efficiency.

Strategies

1. Develop and implement product inspection systems to aid in the achievement of Manufacturing's targeted reductions in defect rates by both rejecting defective product and by providing the output needed for the optimization of the manufacturing process.

2. Develop and implement material inspection systems to provide a more reliable and efficient means of guaranteeing the conformity of materials to PM specifications. Provide the inspection capability needed to permit a shift in the responsibility for inspection toward the materials vendor.

3. Develop and apply new inspection algorithms and hardware to

    a. maintain a competitive advantage within the tobacco industry

    b. provide alternative hardware suppliers for installed systems

    c. permit the extension of the use of automated vision to increasingly varied and complex inspection problems.

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